MR. K. M. KRISHNAN (*Ambalapuzha II*) : May I know whether the Government are aware that disease is responsible for fall in the yield of cocoanut ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : Yes, to a slight extent.

The Agricultural Board.

160. ***MR. K. PADMANABHAN** (*Chirayinkil I*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) when the Agricultural Board was formed in Travancore ;

(*b*) the number of meetings it held ;

(*c*) the sum of money so far expended in connection with its formation and meetings ; and

(*d*) what is the nature of the work so far turned out by the Board?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*)

(*a*) In 1111 M. E.

(*b*) One.

(*c*) Rs. 938-1-4.

(*d*) The Board reviewed the work so far turned out by the Agriculture and Fisheries Department in its various branches, and passed several resolutions calculated to enhance the usefulness of the Department.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know how many resolutions were passed at the last meeting of the Agricultural Board ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : About 25 resolutions.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : May I know whether any one of those resolutions was carried into effect ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Director of Agriculture and Fisheries*) : They are now under the consideration of Government.

Salt Manufacture.

161. * **MR. G. NILAKANTAN** (*Nominated*) : With reference to the statement on page 182 of the Administration Report of the Excise Department for 1110 that the average yield per acre in the Sri Sankara Allom is found to be 7125·75 maunds, while in the same locality the average yield per acre in the Puthallom is only 1912·46 maunds. Will the Government be pleased to explain the cause of the difference in the yield?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : The difference in the yield in the Sri Sankara Allom and the Puthallom Factory during 1110, was due to the difference in the interest and earnestness on the part of the respective licensees.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : May I know wherefrom brine is obtained for the Sri Sankara Allom ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : From the Manakudi lake as well as from brine pits inside the factory.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : How does Puthallom get brine ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Puthallom gets from the Manakudi lake alone.

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MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : What is the cause of the difference in the yield of salt in Puthallom and old allom?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I submit, Sir, that this does not arise as a supplementary question as the question relates only to Sri Sankara Allom and Puthallom.

PRESIDENT : You may claim notice if you are not prepared to answer that question.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I claim notice.

Nagercoil Distillery.

162. * MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state the amount spent on repairs to the continuous still in the Nagercoil Distillery during the past five years?

MR C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : A *statement containing the required information is laid on the table.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : May I know why in 1108 the expenditure rose up to Rs. 1377?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Some additional repairs had to be made in that year and they were more costly than the repairs of previous years.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : May I know the nature of the repairs?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Details are not available. The Assistant Excise Commissioner reports that it was partly due to the adjustment for the work done in 1105 and partly due to the work undertaken in that year itself.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : May I know whether this extra expenditure is due to the fact that the still is an old one?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : It is a fact that it is an old still.

Bus Services on the Quilon-Alleppey road.

163. * MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the then Chief Engineer has, in his letter No. 338 dated 7-2-1929, addressed to the Commissioner of Police, permitted one-ton buses to ply for hire on the Quilon-Alleppey road :

(*b*) the total number of one-ton buses plying for hire on the Quilon-Alleppey road in 1110 and in 1111, respectively ; and

(*c*) the period during which these one-ton buses have been or were allowed to ply for hire on the Quilon-Alleppey road?

MR. R. PITCHU AIYANGAR (*Commissioner of Police*) : (*a*) Yes ; one ton buses with 15 seats, provided the buses are taken empty over the Krishnapuram bridge.

(*b*) 7 buses in each of the years 1110 and 1111.

(*c*) 3 buses for the last 5 years and the rest for the last two years.

* *Vide* Appendix I—page 535

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